

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-13. (Canceled)

14. (Original): A method of sending a message from an air borne aircraft, comprising:  
composing a message on a PDA device;  
transmitting the message from the PDA device over an aircraft cabin wireless  
network to a communications management unit (CMU);  
encrypting the message to create an encrypted message;  
sending the encrypted message via an ACARS network;  
receiving the encrypted message at a datalink service provider;  
forwarding the encrypted message to an operations center; and  
decrypting the encrypted message to obtain the message.

15. (Original): The method of claim 14, wherein the step of composing a message  
comprises using predefined message structures.

16. (Original): The method of claim 14, wherein the wireless network is based on a  
protected IEEE 802.11 (b) protocol.

17. (Original): The method of claim 14, wherein the step of encrypting is performed by the  
CMU.

18. (Original): The method of claim 14, wherein the message is displayed for the flight  
deck personnel.

19. (Original): The method of claim 14, further comprising communicating with other PDA  
devices on the same aircraft.

20. (Original): The method of claim 14, further comprising sending a message from the operations center to a PDA device in an airborne aircraft.

21. (Original): A method of sending a message from an air borne aircraft, comprising:  
composing a message on a PDA device;  
encrypting the message to create an encrypted message;  
transmitting the encrypted message from the PDA device over an aircraft cabin wireless network to a communications management unit (CMU);  
sending the encrypted message via an ACARS network;  
receiving the encrypted message at a datalink service provider;  
forwarding the encrypted message to an operations center; and  
decrypting the encrypted message to obtain the message.

22. (Original): The method of claim 21, wherein the step of composing a message comprises using predefined message structures.

23. (Original): The method of claim 21, wherein the wireless network is based on an IEEE 802.11 (b) protocol.

24. (Original): The method of claim 21, wherein the step of encrypting is performed by the PDA.

25. (Original): The method of claim 21, further comprising communicating with other PDA devices on the same aircraft.

26. (Original): The method of claim 21, further comprising sending a message from the operations center to a PDA device in an airborne aircraft.

27-33. (Canceled)

34. (New): A system of sending a message from an air borne aircraft, the system comprising:

- a means for composing a message on a PDA device;
- a means for transmitting the message from the PDA device over an aircraft cabin wireless network to a communications management unit (CMU);
- a means for encrypting the message to create an encrypted message;
- a means for sending the encrypted message via an ACARS network;
- a means for receiving the encrypted message at a datalink service provider;
- a means for forwarding the encrypted message to an operations center; and
- a means for decrypting the encrypted message to obtain the message.

35. (New): The system of claim 34, wherein the means for composing a message comprises a means for using predefined message structures.

36. (New): The system of claim 34, wherein the wireless network is based on a protected IEEE 802.11 (b) protocol.

37. (New): The system of claim 34, wherein the means for encrypting is performed by the CMU.

38. (New): The system of claim 34, wherein the message is displayed for the flight deck personnel.

39. (New): The system of claim 34, further comprising a means for communicating with other PDA devices on the same aircraft.

40. (New): The system of claim 34, further comprising a means for sending a message from the operations center to a PDA device in an airborne aircraft.

41. (New): A system of sending a message from an air borne aircraft, comprising:
- a means for composing a message on a PDA device;
  - a means for encrypting the message to create an encrypted message;
  - a means for transmitting the encrypted message from the PDA device over an aircraft cabin wireless network to a communications management unit (CMU);
  - a means for sending the encrypted message via an ACARS network;
  - a means for receiving the encrypted message at a datalink service provider;
  - a means for forwarding the encrypted message to an operations center; and
  - a means for decrypting the encrypted message to obtain the message.
42. (New): The system of claim 41, wherein the means for composing a message comprises a means for using predefined message structures.
43. (New): The system of claim 41, wherein the wireless network is based on an IEEE 802.11 (b) protocol.
44. (New): The system of claim 41, wherein the means for encrypting is performed by the PDA.
45. (New): The system of claim 41, further comprising a means for communicating with other PDA devices on the same aircraft.
46. (New): The system of claim 41, further comprising a means for sending a message from the operations center to a PDA device in an airborne aircraft.